# WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER

*NOVEMBER 13, 1993* *ISSUE #34*

# INTERVIEW
# STEVE KEIRN

*The following is part two of the interview with "Skinner" Steve Keirn that was conducted via telephone from his home in Tampa, Florida on September 21. He is currently working the indie circuit.*

**John Clark:** Could you describe that experience down there in Florida and booking and promoting that territory?

**Steve Keirn:** The experience we had down here was a real education. But I'm glad I went through it because I would have never been satisfied in my life if I'd had thought, "I should have tried that, and I never did." I met a lot of people in doing this. The reason I did is because I started looking for avenues in the wrestling business to promote from different means. We didn't start out with a lot of money down here. We didn't have millions of dollars. Originally, it first started out with myself, Gordon Solie, Mike Graham, and Jerry Jarrett. We wanted to familiarize the people that were going to watch our show. We were going to film a regular show once a week. We wanted to give them something to identify with. And Gordon Solie was our key, we thought at the time, because if they had watched Florida wrestling, if they saw Gordon's face they'd know that they were on wrestling. When you turn a channel and you go by something that familiarizes you with it, whether it's the identical spot or not, sometimes you'll stop and watch. That was what we thought might help us out. Now, Jerry Jarrett had an up and running territory. He had talent. At the very beginning, he offered for us to come to Memphis and do our filming and record it there, do a separate sound stage with Gordon on it doing the commentating, like it was the Florida show. We had some wrestlers go up there from Florida. It all worked out kind of nice. The only problem was, you're dealing with, competing against multi-million dollar companies like WWF and Ted Turner. I mean, it's like you could never look important enough. Just having a small sound stage in a film studio with a crowd that couldn't be more than two rows deep, a lot of Cub Scouts, I mean it was at that time it was obvious that it wasn't going to compare or compete with and the guys weren't going look as important because we didn't have the money to produce expensive things. But we gave it a gallant effort. Because we did actual videos and we did some things that were kind of tricky. We had a great content in our show. The wrestlers we had that were available down here were all hard workers, and they were good because they took pride in what they did. And it wasn't like they were expecting to make a million dollars. What they were expecting was that if it did work, they would have a job and they would be seen on a regular basis, if not by some other talent people that might be connected with larger organizations. Everybody got along really good because there wasn't too much of a boss/employee relationship. It was more like a bunch of friends trying to make a wrestling business go. The Nasty Boys were here for the whole time. We had Jim Backlund (now Jimmy Del Rey in SMW) down here. He is and was a great worker then, it's just that nobody had an opportunity to see him. People put Jimmy Backlund down saying that he wasn't no freak of nature size. But originally and all along, we've all known that he was a great worker, great asset, and that he didn't have to be the main event, he could be a great match on the card anywhere and mean something because he is a great worker. We have a lot of great workers down here in this state that never, ever got to show their ability or never got an opportunity to come out here and work. They're still down here. That's why there's a lot of opportunities down here that people are starting to open up.

When Mike Graham and I basically ended up with the PWF, we had gone through so many things. We had filmed television for three years straight. We had a lot of small shows. We never did any great attendance things. We never really made a good living for anybody that was down here, including ourselves. We drained all of the money that we had, that we had saved over all of our years in the wrestling business. I still am paying off for that wrestling business now. A bank loan. We went for a lot of different positions on that business, and one of the things was, Dusty Rhodes quit Atlanta. He asked if he could become a part of it. We cut him in right away because both of us had experienced the Dusty era in Florida how if Dusty Rhodes was on the card, it was either sold out or a great house. And when Dusty spoke on the mic, it was like somebody had chosen him to do that. I listen to Dusty Rhodes interviews like a fan from the beginning of the time I heard till even today. I was always entertained. I thought he was brilliant. I said, "God, having him as a partner was like an honor." It's like he could have had the place and I could have worked for him if he'd made it successful. Because it would have been making more money than I was making with it not being as successful. But I don't know if Dusty being caught up from being in the big industry and all of that stuff to moving back down to a smaller area, even all the effort that he put into it, it was like we were trying to get a horse that was already dead, to get up and carry us somewhere. And it wasn't happening. He had responsibilities that he had with his family at that point by having a good job, that the first opportunity came along to him he had to take. And he went to the WWF at the time. The one thing I can honestly say about all of those situations was, whenever anybody got an opportunity to go on, everybody was happy for him. The Nasty Boys got a job with WCW out of here, and nobody went, "Man, you're not going to leave us are you?" They all went, alright, because that was what we were all wanting to do. If we weren't going to do it here, we were going to make

some money somewhere, someday off of just staying busy. We went through some phenomenol experiences. We went to the Bahamas one time. The Bahamas Air decided just to run their flight an hour earlier. They didn't call anybody that was on the flight. It was a real strange situation. But we were out at the Tampa airport. A few of us were a little bit more than an hour early. And the Nasty Boys were dropping off Curt Hennig and some of the guys that had been in from the WWF at the time, so they were there early. All of a sudden, the announcer said they were going. And we went out the gate. We ended up going to the Bahamas with six guys, and we ran a show. The referee had to wrestle. We had to have the guy that was taking tickets, he had to come out and do the ring announcing and referee. It was unbelievable. I can look back at it and laugh at it now. I laugh at a lot of things. When I started losing my hair, was when I had the wrestling business. I didn't even pull it out either, it just started to fall out. If you're babysitting the Nasty Boys and a bunch of guys that are not making any money... One of our first trips out of the United States was the Bahamas. I thought like I was leading a Cub Scout group. None of us had any money. We were all there hoping that the show was going to do good and we were going to make some money. But we're there the whole day with nothing, and we said, "Let's go out and look around." I'm walking, and I've got five babyfaces with me. I look back and I've got the five heels that are working with him about a hundred yards back, following us along in Nassau. But it was fun. Like, we all grew up doing it, I think.

**Clark:** The camaraderie and the togetherness that you seemed to experience back then, do you see it much anymore in the business?

**Keirn:** Yeah, I see it, but I see it scattered. It's like somebody's taking a glass and just dropped it. And the camaraderie, the big pieces are the guys that are sticking closer together. I met a lot of guys that are from the Minnesota area. And those guys seem to stay together or they're friends. There's a lot of friends in the Florida area. I don't know if it's because that you kind of like identify with where you're living or if you associate with your upbringing and breaking into the business, or whatever it is. There's a certain amount. At the point we were in, when we were running the business and there was the camaraderie a little bit more, all I can say is; if the guys looked out at an audience and they saw that there was a lot of people there and then they felt like they didn't make that much money that night, then they would have felt like myself or Mike or anybody connected with trying to run it, was cheating them. The one benefit I can say about having really small crowds was, everybody knew nobody was getting cheated. Nobody could handle the Nasty Boys until me and Mike. And the only reason we could handle them was because they couldn't afford to do nothing, because we wouldn't pay them.

**Clark:** Did your experience down there change your attitudes that you had about the wrestling business?

**Keirn:** Not really. I love what I did. I've always respected my business and I've always gotten along with everybody in the wrestling business. I don't have any enemies in the wrestling business. Some guys can say, "Well, I hate this guy and I hate that guy." You know, these are all business associates. You go in there and you trust your life to each and everyone of them. Believe me, they could make mistakes on purpose to hurt you, and they don't do it. I don't care how bad of enemies you are, they just don't do that. There's a lot of respect and all of that. I just think that the way it is now, it's just everybody's scared. They're scared they're going to lose their job. The reason is, is because it's hard to go find another one. It's a fear. And the fear's not only in the wrestling business, it's in every business. It's America. It's not even America, it's the world. Everywhere we go, we see problems. So I don't think that there's anything wrong with the wrestling business right now that's not the same as everything else that's going on around it.

**Clark:** Of all the territories you've worked in, where were you the most happy and comfortable working in?

**Keirn:** The most happy I've been is originally in Florida, because that's where I started. I left and I went out and I got an education in the Mobile/Pensacola territory with Ricky Gibson as a partner, who was a great partner. I always believed that if you get a great partner, you'll learn to work as you watch, as you're right up there with him. You see every little thing that he does, and it helps you so much. Robert Gibson was his brother. When Robert was in school, Ricky and I would go pick him up after school. He was just like a little junior high school kid. I've known them for years and years. My first partner was Stan Hansen, in Florida. He was straight out of the Baltimore Colts training camp. I don't know if he had been cut or what happened, but he was my first partner. We were partners for about a year. Then Ricky Gibson was my second partner, but Ricky was a lot more experienced and he had been around quite a while. He was into angles and all kinds of stuff. I had just gotten started in the wrestling business, and then I went onto Atlanta. At that time it wasn't a cable network, it was just the Atlanta stations, and then Colombus TV, Macon TV, and all that. Gordon Solie was announcing up there too. They made me the rookie of the year in 1974. And I don't know if they gave me the rookie of the year because they felt sorry for me or what, because I never won a match. It's like I was the out and out job guy. It was me and Bob Orton Jr. together, and we were the two biggest job guys there. We only worked the TVs. We'd work four or five times a week, and only get the TV's $25. I mean we were really hungry then. I enjoyed it because I was still thrilled even doing it and I could forsee that it had potential.

Then I went to the Carolinas. I got a break there, but I wasn't the happiest there because the trips were really long and it was a real clique. That territory was the cliquish territory I've ever been in. You had to go to the office to do things. And I'd go to the office, and there'd be four or five guys down there buying donuts and going golfing together. And I'm going, "I gotta get out of here, because I don't golf and I don't like donuts!"

Then I came back into Florida and it was perfect timing. They didn't have a young babyface at the time that was a white kid. They had Cyclone Negro. They had Pork Chop Cash. They had great workers, but this was the first time that I was a minority that was just in the right time at the right place. I had been Tiger Conway Jr.'s partner in the Carolinas, and it was great. It really got over good because it was a black and white thing. Then I went down to Florida, and there was a lot of guys here that had a lot of talent, but it was just perfect timing to be able to have gotten already about three years experience under my belt, and then now come down and utilize what I had learned. So they really pushed me hard here and surrounded me with all kinds of opportunities. I was probably the most excited, and I still wasn't the happiest, because the happiest is when you make the most money. It's just simple. You can be doing a lot of great things, but if you're still hungry, you're not really happy then.

Then moving around, Tennessee was a great experience. We made a lot of money there. I would say that was some of the happiest times because I was learning things and I was not only learning more and more about wrestling everyday. I had it set in my mind how wrestling should be for years. When you're educated in Florida--it was a real strict, a lot of amateur style, very aggressive--and then you go to a place where they're not aggressive, they're going, "Hey man, what are you on? Just loosen up. This is not what we do here. You don't need to kill me." And here I had come from a place where everybody was killing everybody. So I guess Tennessee was a great experience. It made me happy. The happiest is, I can't even answer that. I'd say, let me say Tennessee because I made the best money there. I thought it was going to be in the WWF. At first I was happy, but then I was almost to the point where I got kind of stale and bored. It just wasn't exciting. It wasn't really that much fun to me. You know, the wrestling business has a time when it's fun. Even the guys like Scott Hall, when he was working for us in the Florida wrestling. As Razor Ramon, he'd say, "You know, I'm doing a lot better than I ever did, but that was a lot of fun when we did that down in Florida--everybody was really happy. Nobody was suspicious of anything. They didn't say, "Oh God, what's going to happen tomorrow? Are they going to fire me? No, they need me. Because they know I'll work for free!"

**Clark:** Does it bother you that for a long time in the 1980s the smaller but talented wrestlers were overlooked and misused in the States?

**Keirn:** I believe that there's a certain amount of destiny in this. A lot of guys, including myself--we're all guilty of it--I've looked at other people and said, "Wow, I should be in that position, because I'm better than them." But in all honesty, I accepted it quite a while back that while I might not make it to the top, I'm going to be remembered in my business. And that's going to be quite an accomplishment because there's so many thousands that go through it. And the real way to look at life is, if you can make a mark in your life that people identify with you.. I looked at being in the wrestling business where I didn't make comparitables. Like, I didn't get in and say, "How much are you making tonight?" Because I had partners that were better talent than I was, and they should have been paid better than I was. And if I didn't have the intelligence to see that, then I was blind, like a lot of people are. I'll give you an example. If I had Dusty Rhodes for my partner in 1978 against let's say Terry Funk & Dory Funk at the Miami Beach Convention Center, I knew that I wasn't going to make what those three guys were going to make. But I didn't say, "God, I should have had this. Why was I overlooked in my money? I put in as much effort." It's just like I just accepted that. Now the same thing happens with when they overlooked a lot of people, they weren't educated on those people. There was no such thing as talent scouts. All they had to do was rely on people's opinions about them. If they found a tape, and if they watched the tape. You know, there's a lot of tapes people didn't watch, I'm sure. But there's also this really sad thing about the wrestling business. And it's, anybody can start a rumor about anybody else. And they can pass that rumor around.

**Clark:** And boy, it catches fire.

**Keirn:** And it sure does. That's one of the really sad parts about it. Sometimes they play a really vicious game in it. That's one of the good things about not having any enemies. I mean, if you don't have any enemies, then you don't sit around worrying about it. And a lot of times, nothing happens. They forget about you before they really say anything bad about you. You just go un-talked about. I'll give you an example. Bobby Eaton. To me, Bobby Eaton is one of the greatest wrestlers the wrestling business has ever seen. But he's overlooked to a certain amount. But it's not like he's bad-mouthed, everybody will agree with me, but he's not given his fair share of our business. He can make anybody look great. He can make himself look great. And he can do it with the professionalism of nobody else. And he's not the top guy. He's got to take everything for face value. And then plus, you're only as important as your promotion makes you. In other words, I can remember years ago there was a guy named Ernie Beemus. He went as Mr. Clean. And I overheard a conversation with Louie Toulette, who was the booker at the time in the Florida territory, say, "I'll bet you," and I don't remember how much money it was but it was with Paul Jones, the one in North Carolina, then he says, "I can make some money with this guy." And Ernie Beemus, Mr. Clean, was probably at that point in my career, the worst wrestler that I had ever seen in my life. The comparitable to him was a George Gulas. The guy had absolutely no concept of what the f--k was going on. Nowhere near it, and he was already looking like he was somebody's grandpa. He was an old-timer, he had his head shaved, he had the gold earing, and he had an awful body. He had a muscular body, but it was an old muscular body that looked like it would need to be put away. And they went out there and they proceeded to make money with him because that they took the time and the effort. And with the Ultimate Warrior, they took the time and the effort and they had something to work with because the guy looked fantastic. He had interviews that were unique. He could say something, and people were paying attention. Whether it made any f--kin' sense or not; I listened to some of that, and I said, "What did he just say? Somebody rewind that, I didn't understand that." It was like, you knew he was gone. But, people were fans. The idea is, it's who can put somebody's ass every eleven inches in seats. That was years ago, now it's about every forty-two inches. The asses have gotten bigger!

**Clark:** What had you been doing before the WWF contacted you, and were you shocked or surprised that they were interested in using you?

**Keirn:** As a matter of fact, the WWF didn't contact me and offer me a job. Hulk Hogan got me a job. I saw Jimmy Hart one day here in Tampa, and I was talking to him, and I said, "You know, I'd really like to go up there someday. I've never really had an opportunity to go to New York." He said, "Well, I'll mention that." Most of the time people just don't go out and call up, and say, "Hey, you want a job?" You have to be interested in getting a job first. Especially when they've got an up and running business that's doing great. And they're going to say, "Well, let's go looking for somebody. Has anybody seen Steve Keirn?" (jokingly) "No, I think he's dead." No, it wasn't like that. So I made it apparent that I wanted a job. He got in touch right away with Hogan, and Hogan and I knew each other for so many years because we grew up and went to school together, all these things. He appreciated my ability. He told me that he had a lot of respect for me and my style and wrestling, and he knew that no matter what I did out there, what they asked of me, I could do it. And he said he'd like to recommend me. I thought I was like honored again. He went to Vince McMahon and he got me the job. It's just as simple as that. I didn't do a try-out. I didn't send a film. I went right straight up there, went in and sat down, and he said, "Well, let's figure out what we can make you."

**Clark:** Did you have any feelings of unease working in an organization that had mainly featured larger type wrestlers?

**Keirn:** No. No, I have a lot of confidence in myself. Within probably a year of working there, fifty percent of the people I associated with there asked me for my advice on maneuvers in the ring, to finishes in the ring, to everything. That's because I spoke from my heart and I gave them honest answers. If you asked me, "What would you do or how would you do this or what is there to do?" And then, I'd say, "Okay, let me think about it." I'd think about it sincerely. I wouldn't think about it as a big joke, that they were asking me something to make a stupid answer out of. I'd try to help them. Because the sad thing is, is that if you don't help somebody in the wrestling business that's trying to do good, then it's like you're worried about your position. You can't be worried about that. It's a fair business. A lot of guys will extend a lot of offers in there to help each other. That's one of the reasons why I like the business so much. If somebody says to anybody in the dressing room, "Could you help me with this?" They'll give it their best effort, or if they don't think they've got the ability, they'll say, "Hey, ask him. There's the best way to get the advice. Go to him." And I got a lot of people that started coming to me on a regular basis asking me things, over a short period of time.

I didn't think about guys that had been through there, or how big they were, or what they could do. I wasn't intimidated at all. As a matter of fact, I felt overqualified a lot of times because there was such a different style there. I started feeling like, "Well gosh, I don't even need half the stuff I know here." It's common sense. Anybody that tries to exaggerate it one side more than the other is usually trying to get something out of it. They're trying to say, "If you need to go this far with this," sometimes they're saying, "This will benefit me too." But the things that I'm asked as far as an opinion or advice or something like that, just like anybody else would give, they'd give the answers that I would give. Unless they just hated the other guy's guts, they'd say, "Yeah, just go in there and kick that guy in the face. He'll love it. You'll get his attention, and the bookers will go crazy."

**Clark:** Who came up with the idea of the Skinner character?

**Keirn:** Vince McMahon came up with the Skinner character. I fed him as much as I could feed him on the potential I had, with a limited amount. I mean, I wasn't the greatest showman in the world. I know I could go in there and have a wrestling match, but that wasn't that important in the WWF. A great wrestling match wasn't what they were looking for. They were looking for what they are accustomed to, and that was characters appeal to audience, plus marketing ability and

merchandising and stuff like that.

I had done a lot with the alligator business. I had participated in a hunt and killed fifteen alligators, and thought maybe that would help. I took up alligator skins, and skulls, and claws, and stuff, and said, "Any of this stuff or any way you want to make it, or anything like that? My dad was a Prisoner of War, he's a war hero. I could be Mom's apple pie, All-American boy. I could do any of that kind of stuff. I could do anything you want me to do. And here's as much information." And then he turned it over to his art department. It took about three weeks before I saw anything, like that they had an idea. They flew me back up there, costumed me in the Skinner outfit, and started kind of prepping me for it by saying, "Compare it to a guy in the movie *Deliverance*, one of those rednecks in the woods, and just go wild out of the Everglades." So it was easy for me to get into, because I had friends that were "swampy" people and of the Everglades kind. Then I watched the movie a couple times to try to pick up a real Southern accent for him. I noticed they were all chewing tobacco, so I added the liquorice to the thing where I'm chewing a big mouthful of liquorice. I tried to be kind of grotesque. My opinion of a heel is, it's got to be somebody that's almost to the point of disgusting that people don't like him.

**Clark:** Sort of along the lines of the Bastion Booger character?

**Keirn:** Right, yeah. He's a heel, there's no other way you can... Now they'll probably turn him babyface now that I said that. Anyway, that was the way the character was developed. And Vince came up with the idea, came up with the name, everything, and then he gave me the character. We went out and did some vignettes, and they spent some money and time. I supplied them with the places to go, because I was like the real deal. We were out in the alligator waters. The camera guys were freaking out. I have a friend that owns an alligator farm here, and we went out into the swamp there. They said, "Is there any danger around here?" I said, "Yeah, the danger's everywhere here." But it was fun for me cause I was real comfortable in that atmosphere. I had been there.

Then after that, I think what happened with the character more or less though was, I was working with Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat all around and then he had some kind of problem, and ended up leaving and going to the WCW. Then I was left without an oppenent, so they just abandoned me when they abandoned his deal. They just put me in there just to do whatever I could do. From then on, when I thought they lost interest in that character, I thought, "Well, boy, you sure passed up a great opportunity." Even if it wasn't me portraying the character, they had a lot of potential to do a lot of stuff with that character. Anybody in the wrestling business that witnessed Skinner very much, would say, "Well, God, I thought they were going to do more with him."

**Clark:** Were the initial plans for the character Skinner for it to go somewhere or was it just developed to be a bottom card wrestler?

**Keirn:** Well, you can't answer that unless you're in the office. I couldn't answer that. Maybe the initial character wasn't going anywhere to begin with. You can never really answer those inside things. You could come to your opinion or you could say, "Well, maybe somebody didn't like the guy, maybe they didn't like me." Who knows? Maybe they didn't ever have anything in mind, and it went farther than they thought, and they said, "S--t, we should have done something with him to begin with, but now we haven't really done nothing." You know, you never know what the answer is. I mean I wish I owned the character. I wish that it wasn't licensed to the WWF. I'd love to have him. I don't want to really duplicate him because then it's just an imitation, but I'd like to have the character Skinner and utilize him some place else.

**Clark:** Could you describe your philosophy on working as Skinner, and how it compares to your methods working as Steve Keirn?

**Keirn:** Working as Skinner, I looked at it with a ceratin amount of realism; that if this guy was a guy coming out of the Everglades, why should he be able to do fireman carry takedowns, go-behinds, suplexes? I mean, why should he be able to do all these moves? And Steve Keirn was a babyface that didn't have anything exceptionally large in size, like height or weight, so what he had to do was he had to make an excessive amount of moves. In other words, he had to have audiences thinking that he was almost dead, and come out from underneath it somehow or another, realistically enough to where they bought tickets. So Steve Keirn had to be a totally different kind of a wrestler. He had to be more or less an aggressor because the old kind of wrestler that said "hi, how you doing, I love you," and wave at the kids from ringside, they don't pay attention to that. They want to see a guy that if he got kicked in the face, he'd get up and kick you in the face too. He maybe didn't initiate the aggressive moves, but when it comes to being aggressive, he got overly-aggressive. The Skinner guy, if I was coming out of the Everglades and I was supposed to be some backwards redneck, and I went out there and made all these scientific moves and I tried to go move for move with a guy like Bret Hart or something like that, I think that the character would have been lost, and that this wasn't even a real deal. Really, if I go out there and if I take all the moves Bret Hart initiates on me with no ways to get out of them but going to the ropes, then it doesn't look like I've got the ability, so obviously I am out of the Everglades. That's the difference in the two characters. But I feel like that I did a good enough job that I got enough people to write that I couldn't wrestle anymore! So I did what I set out to accomplish.

**Clark:** How did you feel about switching characters from Skinner to Doink the Clown II?

**Keirn:** All it was is, is was business to me. I'm not broken-hearted. I've had Jerry Jarrett mention to me about had I ever thought about the possible of putting me and Stan Lane together again to be the Faulous Ones, because there's nothing in the country right now that has that same appeal, that it might catch on. I guess he's working with Vince a little bit here and there, and he just thought it would be something up there that they could use. And I just told Jerry Jarrett, I said, "Listen Jerry, that was a great thing at one time. But if you go back and try to duplicate it, then people will recognize that, and there's always going to be a certain amount of it lacking. So I'd rather it went down in history as a good thing, than coming back up from history, and then demolishing the whole thing."

But going from Skinner to Doink was basically just a move in a position from one to another, hoping that I could get more longevity out of my business and possibly more money. It wasn't an upgrade or a downgrade, it was just another grade. Jimmy Hart started calling me the Lon Chaney Jr of professional wrestling.

**Clark:** What kind of an experience was your debut at Wrestlemania as the second Doink?

**Keirn:** Well, that five and a half hours under the ring, I guess that was one of things I had never done in the wrestling business. If you're going to say when's the first, that's the first time I had ever sat underneath the ring that long.

**Clark:** This might be a very stupid question. But what do you do under a wrestling ring for five and a half hours?

**Keirn:** I was very patient! There wasn't anything to do. Except to try to calm down, because you're just pumped solid with adrenalin under there. I had a monitor under there to watch the show. But it didn't come on for the first hour I was under there and it went off for the last hour that I was under there. It was kind of like watching Wrestlemania at home. Another way of putting it, it was like being under somebody's bed watching it.

**Clark:** What do you think happened to the plans they had for the second Doink character? It seems as though it was just dropped.

**Keirn:** I have no idea. I guess that's all the plans they had. I had a lot

more things that I could have assisted with, as far as advice on it. I always thought that the two against each other would be good. I thought of first originally bringing out and exposing the other one, and then having tag team matches as the two heels, Doink. You know, because they could switch and do so much stuff. But that never happened. Then I thought it could go right from that to one messing up, the other getting in a big fight with him. And now you've got them against each other. The audience is so confused. One comes out and says, "Well, I'll set this straight." He comes out and has a red wig on one night. So you've got a green wig and a red wig. The next time they come out, the other one's got a red wig on. Now you've got two with red wigs on again. Everybody's back to being confused.

**Clark:** Are you kind of upset though about the lack of communication about what they were going to do with your position in the company?

**Keirn:** Well, not really. And I'll tell you why. A lot of people get upset about being overlooked or being passed up for some reasons. But I had a hand in running a wrestling business. And sometimes it's not so much that you're overlooked, it's just that everything is trying to focus in on something else so hard, that it just doesn't come up. And you've just got to accept that and you've got to go on to something else. It's like, you can't take the way fate is dealed to you as that it's always bad. You can only say, "Well, maybe it's better I didn't do this right now. Maybe it's better they didn't go with the clown thing." You've got to come out with a positive on these negatives sometimes. I'm not upset about anything. I'm not irate towards anybody or anything. When you look at it realistically of what the whole thing is, is that sometimes guys jump to conclusions and think they were dealt a bad hand because somebody just didn't like them. But in dealing hands at one time, I realize that it's kind of hard to make everybody happy. If it's a personal relationship that you have... Say you're my brother, and you're looking at it from your brother's attitude point. And you're going, "Well God, they should give you the opportunity they're giving the Ultimate Warrior." Of course, you say it like that. But if you're trying to be honest with yourself, and that's who you've got to convince anyway--it's not convincing the people around you--you just say, "Well, I guess that wasn't the answer."

**Clark:** Why exactly did you depart the WWF?

**Keirn:** I think that it was like the handwriting was on the wall. What was happening there was, they were cutting back to one town a night. They already had mentioned that a lot of guys weren't going to be working full-time and that they were going to have to give out some releases, and that some guys were going to be part-time. And I thought, "Well, I'm pretty safe because I'm the other Doink, right." Then I started thinking about it, "Well, they're going to get to the point where they might just use one Doink." And then Terry Taylor had mentioned to me that he heard that some guys were getting their releases. He wasn't sure about me, but he thought I might be too. So instead of waiting, I just called Vince at home and said, "Listen, Vince, I heard I was going to get a release. I'm at the point in my career where I don't want to get it from some agent in a town. If you want to release me for some reason, I want it to come right from you and I want to hear it from you." And he said to me that he didn't want to get rid of me, he didn't want to release me because he appreciated my ability and my talent, and that I had been loyal, and did all the things that I was asked of in the wrestling business to do. Which was what I had been educated to do all my life anyway. It wasn't some big exceptional job that I had done. But anyway, it was unusual I guess that you didn't get in an argument with him to quit. So I just said, "Let me make this easy for you. I'll just go ahead and finish up, and then you've released me and I've quit, and everybody's happy. At least you got what you needed to do accomplished." And he goes, "Well, I'm going to have part-time work. But I know you've got to support a family and I know you might want to move on." I said, "Sure, I would. And I've enjoyed working for you." I did real well there. I got to travel to a lot of places and stuff. So I didn't want to have any hard feelings and I don't have no hard feelings. It's just that the time comes when you're just not in the right spot at the right time. So you've got to be smart enough to realize it, and don't start crying. Just say, "Hey, I'm a man." Stand up and say, "Okay, if this is it, this is it. Let's shake hands, and maybe I can come back to work for you someday. And if I don't, well, then you can just kiss my ass."

**Clark:** Are you interested in using the Skinner or the Doink names?

**Keirn:** Neither name really. Semi-characters maybe. I hate the name Doink. I told my kids when they first gave him that gimmick, I went, "Holy s--t, can you believe it? Aren't you glad they didn't make Daddy Doink?" And then here I am! I had to eat my words on that one.

**Clark:** Did your kids get teased at all in school about their father wrestling dressed up as a clown, or did it even affect them?

**Keirn:** No, my kids have done real good in school with their friends. I've been pretty open with all their friends. Randy "Macho Man" and I have gone down to the school and talked to my kids. Yeah, that was a real comparitable one day. I dressed up like Skinner and he dressed up as Macho Man. He stood on one side of the classroom, I stood on the other, and we got third graders going, "Wooow."

But I tell you, I like the character Skinner because I felt like that's what identified me with the WWF. Doink wasn't, Doink was just a phase and the business part. The thing that I identified me with and the thing that people will remember me for in there, was Skinner. And I like Skinner. My kids like Skinner. Everybody likes Skinner. All the family likes Skinner. All of my friends in the wrestling business and out of the wrestling business like Skinner. That's what made me proud. I mean they said, "Wow, you really do that character good." And I started getting really ugly. It started scaring the hell out of me. I'd wake up in the morning, I'd stand up, and there's a mirror right at the side of our bed, and I'd go, "Woo," and that was the first thing I had to look at.

**Clark:** Do you still feel you have a chance to do more with the Skinner character with other promotions out there?

**Keirn:** Oh yeah, God, I've got a lot of open opportunities. I've got a friend that is in the alligator business, and makes boots and stuff like that. I've been talking to him. He's moved from Tampa out to Los Angeles now, and he's in real close contact with Burt Reynolds and knows a lot of the movie industry people from making them alligator skins and boots and stuff. I talked to him a couple days ago, and I proposed a business opportunity for Hollywood for some stuff. He said, "Wow, what great ideas." And real quick, he called some people, and he got back to me that night and told me, "Man, are they interested."

See, I have these ideas for production in the wrestling business that I think are very 90ish. The wrestling business is an opinion. It's one opinion opposed to another opinion. But I have an idea for production that I think would take one of the companys far surpast the other company. But I proposed it to Hollywood from a long-ranged idea, and they're accepting it. And neither one of the wrestling companies are getting the advantage of it, so I don't know if I'm ever even going to end up in the wrestling business with it now. It's all based on production and the concept that I outlined. It could be taken over onto a different level and brought on something, but it's still a production thing. They enjoyed it and liked it so much. I've talked to the people in the WCW a little bit, and I'd be interested in going in there and pursuing it farther, but it's like I want to do this in the wrestling business, this production stuff. At the same time, if it doesn't come about, it's just like one of those things where they overlooked Skinner, they overlooked Doink, it just never came up. It might come up some place else, and they said, "Well, you should have told us." I say, "Well, nobody ever asked me."

**Clark:** As a recent employee for the WWF, how have the terrible houses around the country effected the morale of the wrestlers?

**Keirn:** It's been awful for them. Nobody can say that working in front of less and less people every night is going to make you happy, because

you don't feel like you're doing your job. And the boys are the most depressed of all in public. Now the owners and the people that are behind the scenes like the promoters, they might be depressed when they're around you and to a point where they portray it a little bit, but you always think that they have more money than you do. So you're feeling like, "Hey, you're depressed? I've got to come here every night and wrestle in front of these handfuls of people." So you get a good house and you're ready to take a backdrop to the ceiling, or you get the regular house and you're ready to just kind of like slide down somebody's back. It's depressing, but at the same time, wrestling goes in circles. And something will happen that will kick it back in gear for some things. It'll just happen. I've seen it go through some real depressing times. And this is one of the depressing times. But the country's in a depression, so you can't expect them to be out buying wrestling tickets when they can't afford to feed their families or buy a house or buy a car.

**Clark:** Has the organization also been affected by the investigation into Vince McMahon and the WWF? And has that affected the wrestlers?

**Keirn:** I don't think it has, and I'll tell you why. Nobody really knows what's going on. It's all rumors. Until somebody comes out and identifies what's happening here, you can't be depressed about that. He's getting stones thrown at him, that something happened. The idea is that fifty percent of the people are going to believe it automatically and fifty percent are going to defend him automatically. I'm in the wrestling business and I hear more stuff about lawsuits and different things, but I've learned after this many years of being in it, don't believe it until it happens. People have told me different things from somebody's going to jail to nobody's going to jail, that this guy's in trouble or that guy's in trouble, and I'm going, "Where the hell are you all reading all this?" And it's like, "Well, so and so told me here and so and so told me there."

I tell you, I'm a hell of a ribber in the wrestling business. I take backseat to only one man, and that's Fuji. Mr. Fuji is the top ribber. He's the master. But right underneath him is me, and I'll claim that spot.

**Clark:** (jokingly) Well, I must tell you, in an earlier interview that I did, Marty Janetty claimed that spot!

**Keirn:** (jokingly) Oh no, he's just a punk. He's just a punk trying to get his feet wet. He can't go without getting busted, that's his problem. He's good at it, but he's stupid, because he gets caught. He almost wants to tell somebody he's done it, so he can't stop smiling.

I guess one of the funniest times to me in the WWF was when they sent out a memo on no more ribbing. I mean, why don't you tell them, "Okay, don't wrestle *or* rib." I should have saved that, but I don't think I did, because that was classic. The rib was, is I think it was dedicated to me, because some serious ribs were happening at about that time.

**Clark:** Do you think it's a good, healthy situation where Vince McMahon is sending talent down to the organizations and cooperates with the very, very few territories left, such as Smoky Mountain Wrestling and Jeff Jarrett's Memphis group?

**Keirn:** I don't know if it's healthy, I don't know if it's going to do anybody any good, but at least it's an effort. Why not try it? Guys have been suggesting that for five or six years, to get a farm territory where guys can learn to work or can practice their skills in front of fewer people, and draw from the same farm territory where the guys are good that are doing it. I think anything's good that's experimented. You can't say that it's going to work, but you can't say it's bad when you don't even know. Only ignorant people talk like that. They say, "Oh, that sucks. That ain't going to work." "How do you know?" After you've done this and gambled with it a little bit, you've got to stop and say, "Well, how does that guy know?" They don't. To be honest with you, I don't think Vince McMahon in all the success he's had, realizes how much luck was involved in it. If you stop and look at it, there was a lot of luck. A lot of things happened at the right time for him and he did great. But it's like, he's in a position where he has to experiment now. He can't just sit back and say, "Well, the WWF's in town." And that's the way it used to be.

**Clark:** What do you think is happening to the business for Jerry Lawler and Jim Cornette to show up in the World Wrestling Federation?

**Keirn:** I don't think that anything unique is happening for them to show up because they've got credibility as talent.

**Clark:** But some major things have been happening in the business...

**Keirn:** They hadn't been happening, and that's because they were never needed. Somebody's opening their eyes and says, "I need change. I need to change." And other people are right there waiting to help change. And it's just at the right time. You can talk to a Jimmy Cornette or you can talk to a Jerry Lawler on a business standpoint, and they understand business. They've run it, they've participated, and all of that. Somebody calls them up and says, "Let's try this," they're going to be open for an opportunity. And then the guy that's giving the opportunity has got to weigh it out, and say, "Are any of these little territories doing any business? Well, Memphis is still hanging in there. Smoky Mountain seems to be doing a little business. Okay, let's communicate with those two then. If they're doing business on a small scale, then why couldn't we do big business on a small scale brought up to a big scale?"

**Clark:** Did you ever get involved in any of the decision making or any of the booking for WWF, or would you have liked to?

**Keirn:** Oh yeah. God, I'd like to have got my hands in there and started ripping. I'd have been all over that place.

**Clark:** What are some of the positive and negative things you think they've been doing recently?

**Keirn:** I'm not watching. I'm not watching at all. Believe me, I've seen enough wrestling in my life to last three or four lifetimes. It's like a guy that lays tile all day long, and somebody goes, "Guess what? On Tool Time tonight they're going to lay tile." Unless one of my friends calls me up and says, "Hey, I'm in a match tonight on TV. Would you watch it and see what you think?" Or I see something all of a sudden come across while I'm flipping the channels, if there's somebody that I like that's working, I'll watch it. When Typhoon went to the WCW, bless his heart, I felt so sorry for him. He's a real close friend. He's a great guy. I can't express my feelings towards him. But the only thing I can say is, if it was going to happen to somebody, I could think of about four or five people I'd want something like that to happen to, and he's not one of them. I knew he was going to be on making a debut, and I watched the Clash to see him come on. God, I hated to see that. I love that guy. That could happen to me as Skinner and I could get out of that. As a matter of fact, I could have gone back through the other way. You have to really know him personally almost to feel as bad as I felt for him. He's a really super human being. His kids, his mom and his dad, and his family, he's got a lot of love in his heart. He's a pure gentleman from start to finish. And he's one great big son of a bitch, so I wouldn't laugh at him because he'd kill me!

**Clark:** Where do you think the WWF is headed now?

**Keirn:** If I could answer that, I'd go right now down to the corner and I'd walk in the store and I'd say, "Give me one of them lotto tickets and let me tell you what number I want, because I know it's going to be that and I'm going to win." I can't say that. Let me give you the perfect answer for that, because it's the truth. Hulk Hogan used to come to me when I was wrestling and he wasn't, on the beach in Tampa where we grew up, which we called Port Tampa, and he'd come to me and say, "Man, I want to wrestle. I want to be a wrestler." And you know what

I'd tell him? I'd tell him, "Listen Terry, man, you can't make any money doing this s--t." So you can't ask me to predict the future on anything. I've had to eat my words on that conversation for like twenty years. "You can't make no money doing this s--t." "Well, maybe you can't, Steve!"

**Clark:** Would you consider Vince McMahon a genius for what he done in the wrestling business?

**Keirn:** No, I don't consider that there's any geniuses in the wrestling business. I consider they're lucky people that happen to be in the right place at the right time. If he was a genius, then he'd be successful right now to the point where he wouldn't need anybody or anything. Like he wouldn't be calling the Jerry Lawler's, he wouldn't be calling the Smoky Mountains, he wouldn't be doing the things that we're seeing happening. That's a genius.

**Clark:** But I'm also talking about his ability to come up with gimmicks with particular wrestlers. The creativity he has and the way he is able to design and fit a perfect gimmick for a wrestler like a tailor fitting suits. Do you consider him a genius at that?

**Keirn:** I consider him very talented. You can't call him a genius. It's like somebody asking me if wrestling's fake. And I say, yes. I can say that real easy. And if I say that Vince is a genius, then he would have been on the money on every character. Okay, that's a genius. He's very talented and he's made some great accomplishments, but Jerry Jarrett's done the exact same thing. Any guy that's had the opportunity to create does it. Dusty Rhodes can do the exact same thing. These are highly intelligent individuals that are polished on one business. So that they can produce some people. But Vince McMahon took Big Steel Man and made him Tugboat. And that wasn't a genius move to me. He had a great character that he could have gone with there in Typhoon being a big construction worker, that was a real good character that he could have had because nobody owned it. We called him U.S. Steel when we had him as the big construction worker, and he fit the part. He did not fit the part of a f--kin giant Popeye. So he (Vince) hit on a lot of them, and he missed on a few. So he's a great talent and it takes a lot of ability to do that, but a genius doesn't miss on any.

**Clark:** What is most important to you in your life right now and what goals do you have for yourself for your future?

**Keirn:** The most important thing to me in my life right now is my family. And it will always come first above anything; wrestling business, real estate, no matter what it is. My goals in my life right now are to stay in the wrestling business at a point where I can go from either wrestler into executive or helping with the planning and helping with the future of younger wrestlers and trying to figure out what the future's going to be, to the point that that's something I know. Wrestling is not a prerequisite for any other occupation. I mean I can't take my knowledge of twenty years and go out there and all of a sudden get a job selling cars. You're qualified as a wrestler after this many years to be a bouncer or a truck driver or maybe you could be a weatherman with a funny voice. But the idea is, I'd like to stay in what I know the best, because this is my comfort zone. But if not, my goal in life is just to continue and supply my family with the best living that I can and keep my health. I think we're all guided by certain things. And right now I feel like I'm being guided by the love and the warmth of my family because we're trying to form a relationship that is like the perfect American home with the values of religion, love, honor, trust, honesty, things like that. And I've learned a lot. I used to think that happiness and all of that was around the value of money and wealth was what you owned. But now I've gotten to the point where I realize wealth is my health, wealth is my family, wealth is being able to just get up every morning and say, "Well, I don't have any enemies," and things like that. It sounds kind of silly, but at the same time it's the truth. It's like, if I don't win the lotto every week, I'm not crying. What I think about is, if I won it, would it be a mistake? Would I think that being a millionaire is going to make me a happier person or would it just ruin my life and my family? I know a lot of people that were very wealthy in my career, and most of the ones that I've met that were wealthy with money and possessions, ended up miserable somehow or another, right down to wrestling promoters.

**Clark:** How would you like to be remembered in the professional wrestling business?

**Keirn:** (jokingly) I'm the guy that originated the forearm! I want to be remembered for that, because to originate anything in the wrestling business is a hard claim to fame. (seriously) I think that the most you want to be remembered for is from your pears that when you were asked to do something that you didn't say, "I'm not going to do it." In other words, you said you'll do anything for them, because you have professional courtesy. It's a simple thing. When there's an old reunion and I'm a hundred years old and they all come there, they're going to say, "Yeah, that Keirn, he was stiff. He'll do anything for you out there, plus hurt you."

**WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION**

*On top of the trouble Titan Sports is having with the Justice Department, it appears part-time employee Jerry Lawler is also facing some trouble. According to a Louisville, Kentucky newscast on 11/11, Lawler was indicted by the Grand Jury on charges surrounding his sexual activity with a fourteen-year-old girl. He was to appear for a hearing on 11/12, but no further developments are available.

*Monday Night Raw television tapings were held 11/8 in Bushkill, PA at the Fernwood Resort with a sellout crowd of 2,000. Raw aired live with Ludvig Borga and Scott Steiner wrestling to a double-DQ because of the interference of the Quebecers and Rick Steiner. Rick Martel and Men On a Mission won squash matches. Then Crush was walking out to the ring for his match when he was attacked by Randy Savage, who pushed Vince McMahon to the ground as he left the commentators' table. They had a wild brawl with all the agents coming out to break up it. Next Bob Backlund beat Barry Horowitz, but most of it did not as they covered the Crush-Savage melee all over the back, and the show ended with them brawling outside the building with agents attempting to separate them. Before the live show aired, they taped matches to air next week and dark matches. Razor Ramon beat Pat Tanaka, Diesel and Headshrinkers won squashes, Owen Hart beat Reno Riggins, which included a verbal confrontation with Jerry Lawler, who had been doing commentary, after the match. Ramon beat Brooklyn Brawler, IRS beat Marty Janetty, Doink the Clown beat Bastion Booger and snuck tobasco sauce in Booger's pizza after the match, causing Booger to run back to the dressing room holding his mouth after he took a bite. Bret Hart beat Lawler, with Owen stopping Lawler from leaving during the match. After the match, Lawler was offended by something a fan did while he was heading back to the dressing room, and had him ejected by a security guard. Airing next week, Lex Luger beat Quebecer Pierre after a forearm shot, and Jacques tried to attack Luger after the match, but was thrown out of the ring. Pierre was knocked out, and Jacques threw their manager Johnny Polo out of the ring. Undertaker beat Yokozuna by DQ in the final match. Thanks to correspondent Dan Morelano for the report.

*Three developments occurred at the Challenge television tapings 11/9 in Carbondale, PA. Shawn Michaels returned and they started building towards his feud with IC champion Razor Ramon. Tiger Jackson, who originally was doing a little Hulkster gimmick and recently was the Macho Midget, will now be a Midget Doink the Clown. And finally, the lovable Bastion Booger was turned face.

*Mr. Perfect has been some time off for personal matters and won't work until the Survivor Series, where a new agreement will have to be reached for him to stay with Titan. Bam Bam Bigelow is also off until the PPV to be with his wife who is expecting another child soon.

*The tenth annual Wrestlemania will emanate on March 20, 1994 from where it all started, Madison Square Garden, with ringside seats going for $300. There will also most likely be a big merchandise sale and autograph session as a part of that weekend's festivities. The Garden shows before the event will be 11/27 and 1/17/94.

*It is evident that Titan Sports is experiencing some finiancial problems as they have cut a lot of the health benefits away from the office employees and they have a much tighter system regarding their money, as now only Linda McMahon and one other person can fill out or approve expense reports. There has also been a lot of rumors that Titan Towers is for sale, although that has not been confirmed.

*The WWF seems to be contacting too many of ECW's current talent right now--Pat Tanaka, Sabu, Rocco Rock (Ted Petty), and now Johnny Grunge (Johnny Rotten) and Madusa.

*There are always so many discrepancies regarding the departure of a wrestler from the WWF and the rights concerning the character. Their current policy according to a wrestlers release states that the departing wrestler can utilize the ring name and identity that they used within the WWF for six months after their release. "This is being done in order to allow the talent to make an easier transition to a new identity,

not associated with Titan." It also explains, "Our intent is not to deny anyone the right to be booked or earn a living, but rather to protect specific characters we create."

*Ring announcer Mike McGuirk and Boni Blackstone were let go as a way of cutting costs. Sgt Slaughter, who was let go two months ago, worked several shows recently on short notice. He wore a blonde wig and did run ins on Bret Hart's matches with Jerry Lawler as one of Lawler's Knights on the Northeast shows two weeks ago.

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING**

*The talk currently surrounding WCW now involves the status of Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson with the company after they were involved in a severe incident on 10/26 at a hotel in Blackburn, England that left Vicious with four stab wounds and Anderson with about eighteen from a small pair of scissors. TBS was very upset over this circumstance and they reportedly wanted both involved in the fight to be fired. However, WCW has worked it out to where they only have suspended Anderson, who may not return for about two months. On the other hand, Vicious' name was mentioned frequently during the Clash and regarding chasing Col. Parker. However, it is not known how long Vicious will be out for. His doctor told him that he shouldn't return to the ring until the middle of December, but expect him back sooner. Also expect the main event of Starrcade to be changed to Vader-Flair. Many fans were outraged at Flair's pushing of Vicious at the Clash, because of Flair's relationship with Arn Anderson.

*The 11/10 Clash of the Champions from the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, FL drew a little under 6,000, of which only 600 were paid. This Clash did a great job of setting up the 11/13 Saturday Night show, but did nothing to setup their Battlebowl PPV ten days later and the Starrcade PPV 12/27, which are much more vital to the company. Most people who left messages regarding the show did not particularly enjoy it, but most agreed the Austin-Pillman match was the best on the show with Flair-Vader right behind it. 1: In a weak opener, "International heavyweight champion," "World heavyweight champion," and "Undisputed world champion" wearing the NWA belt, Ravishing Rick Rude wrestled Road Warrior Hawk (who injured his knee in Japan two weeks ago and needs surgery for it) to a double-countout. Jesse Ventura stated that the decision didn't sit well with the fans, and he was right. The bad finish really hurt the match. 2: Shockmaster beat Equalizer with Tony Shiavone talking about how this was the one match that he couldn't predict. Mean Gene then interviewed Col. Parker, who talked about dropping Sid Vicious, and then left because he was worried Vicious was in the building. 3: TV champion Steve Regal beat Johnny B. Badd with help from his manager Sir William (minus eyebrows after a Nasty Boys prank overseas). 4: Stunning Steve Austin managed by Col. Parker beat Brian Pillman in a great battle of one of the best tag teams of the 90s, the Hollywood Blondes. The finish came after Austin missed a stun gun, with Pillman then diving back over the ropes, and Parker grabbed his foot, causing the pinfall. 5: US champion Dustin Rhodes with father Dusty beat Paul Orndorff with the Masked Assasin. A lot of attention was put on Rhodes and Assasin, including many fat jokes by Ventura. After the match, Assasin nailed Dustin into the ring post. Dusty then landed many elbows to the biggest pop of the night. Orndorff ran in and struck Dusty, followed by Assasin and Orndorff double-teaming Dusty; attacking him with the belt until Dustin made the save. 6: Nasty Boys beat Sting & Davey Boy Smith when Sags pinned Smith. Before the match Rude came out of nowhere and gave Smith a Rude Awakening, with Smith simply and quickly getting back into the ring. 7: After Ric Flair pinned WCW champion Vader with the ref's three count and the bell ringing and the ref raising Flair's hand while Ric was holding the belt, it was announced the ref had disqualified Vader for when he mistakenly hit the ref minutes earlier. The finish was very disturbing, but Vader and Flair worked well together and had a good match considering the time element. After the match, Austin came down and he and Vader double-teamed Flair until Dustin and Shockmaster made the save, setting up Vicious & Flair-Vader & Austin for the 111/13 Saturday Night show.

*Mean Gene Okerlund could be the next big babyface in WCW. They certainly feel that he will bring the ratings for their TV up and help in building PPV buy rates. A commercial ran after the Clash finished with Turner employees Larry King and Fred Hickman hyping Mean Gene's debut on the 11/13 WCW Saturday Night. He was on WCW's hotline last week talking about his former employer. He stated that Vince McMahon has changed his practices, causing the company to go downhill. He talked about one of Vince's major problems being his hiring of "hicks," with Okerlund citing Jim Ross, Boni Blackstone, Jim Cornette, Bruce Prichard's brother (Tom), and Todd Pettingill as examples. He declared that WCW is setting the pace for the wrestling business and that he was glad to be out of a cottage industry (WWF) and with a major league entertainment group.

**THE INDEPENDENT SCENE**

*The Mexican promotion AAA incredibly has booked Madison Square Garden for a show 1/8. Originally the smaller Paramount in MSG was going to be the site of the New York event, but they apparently feel they will experience the same success in New York that they had in California. This 1/8 date is very close to the WWF's 1/17 date there and just two months apart from Titan's Wrestlemania extravaganza. It will be quite remarkable if the show successfully comes off without some input from the WWF, which has had a lock on the Garden for many years. Konnan and AAA stars, plus Chris Candito with Tammy Fytch and probably Jake Roberts with Sherri Martel will be on the card.

*Eastern Championship Wrestling held a card in Northeast Philly on 11/12 and only drew about 160. It was a television taping for three weeks of shows on Sports Channel, but after reviewing the production and the poor crowd size, they have decided to not air any of the matches that they taped. Kevin Sullivan won a battle royal, Chris Michaels won a squash, ECW tag team champs Johnny Hotbody & Tony Stetson beat Sandman & J.T. Smith, ECW champion Sabu beat Tazmaniac, Public Enemy beat Ian & Axl Rotten, Sandman & valet Peaches & J.T. Smith beat Hotbody & Stetson & manager Hunter Q. Robbins, Tommy Cairo beat Chris Michaels, Mr. Hughes won a squash, Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond beat Don E. Allen & Mr. Hughes in a dream partner tag team match (?) with Hughes destroying Allen afterwards, Tanaka & Diamond beat Public Enemy, Ian & Axl Rotten beat Hotbody & Stetson in a non-title match, Sullivan won a squash, Tommy Dreamer (who they are going to give a big push) beat Johnny Grunge. Road Warrior Hawk was advertised but didn't come due to his knee injury. He was scheduled to come into town the next day and appear for the Hawk & Sabu vs Terry Funk & mystery partner match. Thanks to Bob Koenig for the results.

*Mark Bodey promoted an ACW show 11/6 in Steelton, PA drawing about 900 fans for what was described as a fantastic match with Terry Funk and Sabu. They brawled all over the building until Funk won by pinfall. In other matches, Bushwackers beat Bad Crew, Nikolai Volkoff beat Greg Valentine, Rip Sawyer beat Max Thrasher to win the ACW title, Lord Zolton (managed by Angel) beat Mighty Quinn Nash to win a title, Glen Osbourne won a 15 man battle royal.

*An MEWF/ASWA show is happening on 11/14 at Kenwood Senior High School in Essex, MD with Jake Roberts vs Road Warrior Hawk, Greg Valentine (with Madusa)-Kevin Sullivan, plus Max Moon, Bad Company, Bad Breed, and much more.

*Jim Kettner's ECWA has a show 11/20 at Salesianum High School in Wilmington, DE with the Bushwhackers, Ivan Koloff, and more.

*Wrestling Insider Mike Tenay is now on the American Sports radio network Friday mornings at 8:30 am Eastern time. The show can be picked up in Southern California on San Diego's XTRA 690 AM.

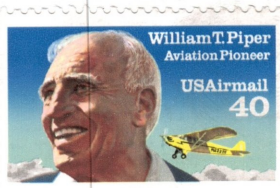
Please phone in a report of any live shows you attend after the event is held to our phoneline (215)566-3852 at any and all hours of the day. Fax messages can be sent to (215)566-3852 with notification before doing so. THANK YOU.

*All interviews are transcribed verbatim and the opinions of the subject being interviewed do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editor or this newsletter.*

The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter is a biweekly publication available by subscription at $1.50 ($2.50 for orders outside of North America) per issue, $6 for 4 issues, $12 for 8 issues. Send all subscription orders and all other inquiries to: THE WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER, PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086. Please make all payments payable to the editor, John Clark. THANK YOU.

**WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER**
**POST OFFICE BOX 283**
**WALLINGFORD PA 19086**

AIR MAIL




**FIRST CLASS MAIL**